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Letter dated 26 November 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the pleasure of transmitting the statement of His Majesty King Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (see annex).

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 18, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Tawfeeq Ahmed **Almansoor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 26 November 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Letter from His Majesty King Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (29 November 2007)

The convening of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly this year coincides with the fortieth anniversary of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories in 1967. Neither we nor the international community are in need of any further speeches describing the results of the ongoing occupation and the humanitarian, economic and social misfortunes and disasters having occurred over these four decades, the effects of which continue to bring suffering on the Palestinian people to this day.

The reports of United Nations bodies and agencies have documented the various aspects, dimensions and repercussions of the policy and practices of the Israelis in their occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, including demolition, displacement, isolation, blockade and economic strangulation, which by any international legal and humanitarian standards constitute flagrant violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention and of the rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The continuing Israeli occupation throughout these four decades has come to be a permanent source of instability and violence, not only in the occupied territories but also throughout the Middle East, heightening tension and directly affecting the future of regional peace, security and stability.

The international community is certainly now aware that the achievement of stability and security in the countries and regions surrounding the occupied Palestinian territories is closely linked to finding a just solution to this historical conflict by peaceful means, in accordance with international legitimacy.

Despite the intensive multi-track dialogues witnessed this year by the Arab region, by the parties directly concerned with the dispute and by the international community through the efforts of the Quartet, we cannot but note with deep regret that the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, particularly in recent months, has undergone still further deterioration, which bodes ill for the cautious hope and new-found confidence surrounding the possibilities for arranging a meeting on peace in the Middle East shortly before the end of this year.

We welcome all the ongoing earnest Arab endeavours to establish peace and revive efforts designed to achieve that objective by returning to the Palestinian people all of the West Bank and Gaza territories occupied since 1967. In the same context, we commend the results of the international peace conference convoked by American President George Bush and hope that the ensuing phase will be a turning point in dealing in earnest with the essential issues and pending questions on the tracks of the peace process.

We wish to emphasize the importance of continuing the peace process and following up on the outcome of the conference with a view to arriving at a peaceful, just, lasting and equitable settlement to end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 1967, as well as to the establishment of an independent and viable Palestinian State, with Jerusalem as its capital. All States in the region, including Israel, may then live together in security and peace, on the basis of the relevant terms of reference and international instruments, in particular United Nations resolutions, the Arab Peace Initiative and the road map, in accordance with the principles of international legitimacy and the will of the international community.

Let us therefore work sincerely and with all of our might to achieve this humanitarian goal with a view to establishing the principles of justice, promoting truth and victory for legitimacy and law, and implementing the will of the international community.